

## TOPIC 4

# COMPUTER SOFTWARE

## BASICS

### Systems Software vs Application Software

#### 1. System Software

- System software is the foundational software that manages and controls the hardware of a computer. Examples include: Operating Systems (Windows, Linux, Mac OS), Utility Programs (Antivirus, disk cleanup), Device Drivers (Printer driver, display driver), Firmware (BIOS), Language Translators (Compilers, assemblers).

#### Purpose of system software

- Manages system resources (CPU, Memory, Storage).
- Controls hardware operations.
- Ensures system security and stability.
- Provides user interface (GUI or Command Line).
- Helps run and execute application software.

NB

System software can run on its own and it does not depend on application software.

- In terms of installation and complexity, system software is more complex and usually comes pre-installed with the computer and it runs in the background.
- It has less interaction with the user.
- Works behind the scenes.

It consumes more memory because it



manages the entire system.

## 2. Application Software

- It is designed to help the user perform specific tasks.

### EXAMPLES

Media players (VLC), Mobile Apps (Whatsapp, Instagram), Web browsers (Chrome, Firefox), Microsoft Word (word processing), Games (FIFA, Need for Speed)

### Purpose of application software

- Helps users perform tasks like writing documents, browsing the internet etc
- Designed for solving specific user problems.

NB

- It depends on system software.
- Cannot run without an operating system.
- In terms of installation it is easy to install and use and runs only when the user launches it.
- It has high interaction with the user.
- Provides user friendly interfaces.
- It uses memory only when running a specific program.

## Compiling Systems

A Compiling system is a set of tools

that takes high-level source code



- into Machine Code that a Computer can execute. The main tool is the Compiler.
- In Biostatistics A Compiling System is a set of programs used to translate Source Code written in Statistical or programming Languages (eg R, Python, SAS, C) into Machine-readable instructions.
- In biostatistics and data analysis, Compiling Systems ensure that:
- Statistical algorithms run efficiently.
  - Simulations and models execute correctly.
  - Large datasets are processed quickly.

### Role of Compiling Systems in Biostatistics

1. Running Statistical Models.
2. Handling Large Datasets.
3. Ensuring accuracy.
4. Improving performance of statistical software.

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### Hands on demo of Software Installation

A hands on demo of Software installation is a practical exercise students learn by directly installing software on a computer.

### Importance in Statistics and Data Analysis

1. Enables use of Statistical tools.
2. Improves IT skills.
3. Ensures readiness for data analysis.
4. Builds Confidence.

### General Steps in Software Installation (Hands-on)

1. Identify required software.



2. Download the installer.
3. Launch the installer.
4. Follow the installation wizard.
5. Installation process.
6. Completion.
7. Post-Installation Set up.

### Safety and Best Practices

1. Use Original Software.
2. Scan for viruses.
3. Update regularly.
4. Check Compatibility.
5. Backup important data.